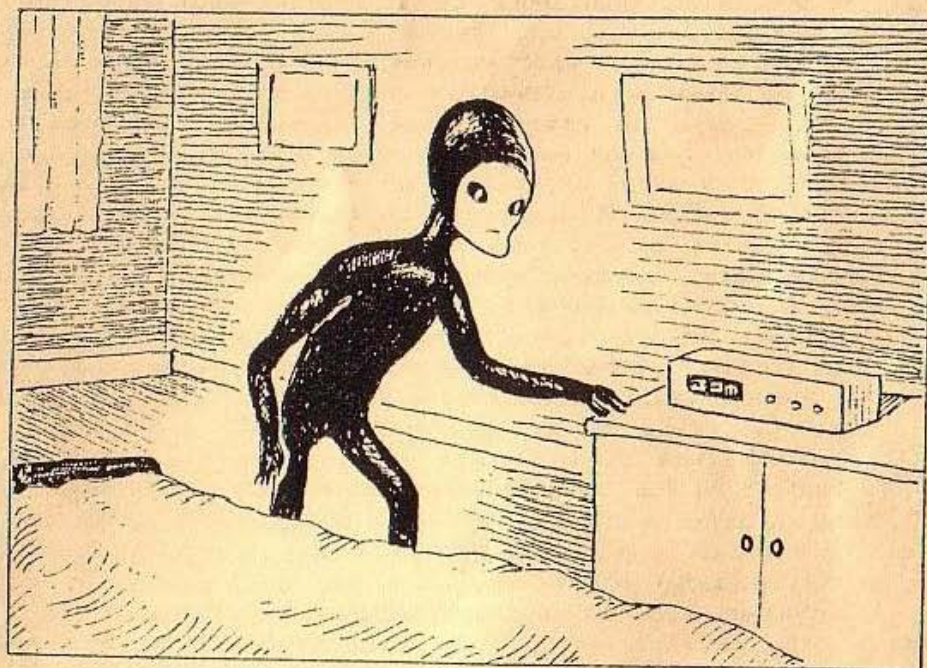


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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COVER BY: - ROY SANDBACH

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Once again, it is excuses time! NUN continues to run behind schedule and this is the February edition - even if it is arriving in April, or May. I can only add that this is due to unavoidable pressure from book contracts to tight deadlines plus two other ventures connected with TV. These are very time consuming and came up at the last minute, but promised good things for UFOlogy so could not be ignored. Both are discussed later this issue. Then a serious family illness came up. This all scuppered plans to learn to use my recently purchased PC for a new style NUN layout (maybe next time for what will be the promised 20th anniversary issue - we'll see) Whatever happens, I stand by my plan to give subscribers seven issues for the price of six during the calendar year of 1994.... This is the second, so fingers crossed!

J. R. Comments...

Discussing the 'Elite' files rather seems to play into the hands of whatever weird individual is behind them. Certainly it is someone possessed of a whole lot more money than sense and they bring back more than a whiff of those other great time wasters of years gone by - APEN. Of which enough!

However, on reflection I will comment, if only because I think this reflects a rampant trend within UFOlogy which someone ought to speak out against. Given the content of Elite's looney tunes this is bound to bring attacks from those being duped that I am bound to say that, being apparently paid (I wish) by MI 5, or MJ 12, or someone else with mysterious letter / number combinations - maybe SK 3 (no - sorry, that's just my post code).

This latest secret society seem keen to cause disruption and achieve attention for themselves. I guess that I am giving them exactly what they seek, but stress this will be the only time that I refer to their missives.

Of course, the problem is that if you do stay mum then people out there being sent this twaddle may believe that you have something to hide because you won't talk about it. It's a heads they win and tails you lose situation.

The 'Elite' files, for those lucky enough not to have had the dubious pleasure of seeing them plop through their letter box (on route, one hopes, pretty rapidly to the bin) are supposed messages of wisdom from some nameless source, an alien one being broadly hinted. They began to come early in 1994 and so far half a dozen of their waffling tracts have appeared in the homes of (Elite claim) 1000 UK residents and media sources.

The perpetrators hide behind the curtains, seemingly afraid to name themselves or offer up clues as to their identity (for which read that they are frightened of being sued for the defamations they churn out). No doubt they think they can avoid this under a pretext of billing themselves anonymous and untracable. But they are pretty poor at playing James Bond. 'The Voice', a further set of semi-anonymous 'truth' messages (they do give a return address) have disclaimed themselves as being behind Elite but do say they have agreed to a meeting with this other lot later this year!

Elite paint themselves into corners whilst telling the glorious 'truth' behind UFOlogy in this country. That, if you hadn't guessed it, is that various UFOlogists (myself included) are all secret agents working for the government - although to do exactly what is less than obvious.

It stretches credulity to imagine a government (who couldn't pay me to work for them in gold bars) would cut important social services and yet fund UFO agents. But other 'Elite' file revelations are equally on a par with this daft claim and have the impact of an episode of Noddy in Toyland.

Still Elite, whose packages seem to be postmarked West London, profess they themselves are not government agents or disinformation specialists.

They say, 'You would be closer to the truth if you were thinking that ELITE is part of an extraterrestrial and alien liaison.' They have left their mark on mars, the moon and the Pleiades and 'WE ARE WATCHING, WE ARE ALWAYS WATCHING, AND WHAT WE SEE IS A RACE IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE'. (The capital letters are frequently interjected and, in my experience, used to this extent, are a UFO letter writers equivalent of coloured crayon).

Anyhow, dear old Elite (sorry ELITE - they always underline their own name too) is going to ensure that 'man will truly be entertained' during 1994. The covers of their files term this as 'The year of extraterrestrial awareness'... Well I guess comedy does count as entertainment.

In Elite 2 (the aliens strike back) they offer prophecies of what is to come. On these, at least, can they be judged - so beware as the Hubble telescope is about to collapse and another nation will threaten to declare war on the USA... Oh - and a giant mother ship will appear over Mexico.

By Elite 3 (the day of judgement) the world's top government agents are exposed. 'Destiny' gives us the low down on well known (and not so well known) names who were shown the truth and became secret agents, or were brainwashed, made into clones, or are just in it for the money! Me (or rather someone with another name they seem to think is me) gets star billing as a 'double government agent' (does that mean I get paid twice?)

Hilariously, they charge me with being 'unable to write an accurate account' and then demonstrate their own accuracy by professing that I was 'recently thrown out as director of investigations of BUFORA since her government connection had been too close to coming out in the open (and) her government colleagues could no longer risk her presence'.

Would that the truth were so exciting. In fact, I was not thrown out - I resigned. Nor have I left BUFORA. I remain a member, doing work for the organisation and, amongst other things, still producing UFO Call. If there are darker reasons why I quit council that nobody has told me about, then I trust Elite (sorry Elite) will speak out so that I can fill you all in.

Indeed, the couple of times I've had a brush with the MoD or the official cover up (see 'From out of the blue') I have told the world all about it - which wouldn't put me top of the honours list in MI 5, I suspect.

By delicious irony, when this stuff arrived I had just sent to Robert Hale my next book which comes close to demonstrating the extraterrestrial hypothesis - the one Elite have just told the world I am being paid to debunk. So its back to the drawing board on that one, Destiny, I'm afraid.

By Elite 5 we learn of a rather disturbing tale about a harassed witness. The abductee concerned phoned me the day we both received it. She was very upset, not least because (whilst some facts are wrong) the writers of this package do apparently have access to inside information.

This stuff is, surely, just a hoax. However, the perpetrators are mischievous insiders. They know things about UFO politics and UFOlogists. In the sea of paper they are circulating far and wide at great expense are a few nuggets of truth, badly diluted by gallons of claptrap. They have simply shot themselves in the foot by antagonising all sides of the fence.

This is just the latest phase following attacks in the USA last year, where anonymous circulars made accusations against well known researchers - naming specific intelligence agencies. That itself was a sequel to the MJ 12 documents which 'gripped' UFOlogy in the late eighties and, I think, probably emerged from somewhere on the fringes of the UFO community.

It as if this is a new game that some bored people have invented to play. Now crop circles have all but vanished and big cases are thin on the ground this presumably passes for fun or research in some folk's eyes.

It is a childish waste of everybody's time. That's why we have to crush it before it fills books and magazines and spawns more imitators. I will say nothing more about these anonymous messages naming UFO 'secret agents' - whoever gets implicated by them. I can only urge you all to do the same.

Look at it this way. If Elite really do have any grounds for these insinuations - then they should publish them properly and openly. As it is, in my case, I know they are up a tree barking at the moon. Hence I must suspect they have no real evidence against anybody else they denigrate.

If by some remote chance they did have truth on tap, then masquerading as Destiny or Elite and behaving like kids in a schoolyard scribbling secretly on walls is self defeating... UFOlogy has enough stupidity already.

DARE YOU ENTER THE UFO ZONE ?

In February I got a call from a company working with Granada TV who wanted some minor help in a then 'secret' project. After meeting them it transpired that they were quietly building the world's first UFO 'dark ride' at the Granada Studio Tours theme park in central Manchester.

This work was pretty much concluded by the time I persuaded them to let Peter Hough and I lend a serious hand. Sadly, they had not taken any inside advice up front when, in 1992, they began to convert an old warehouse into a £1.25 million attraction to 'play on the public's fascination with all things alien'. Instead they settled on a UFO crashing into the building and a ride that takes you through this onto destiny with its alien crew - predicatably choosing 'Star Wars' and 'Alien' as inspiration. There is no real input from actual UFO crashes or alien contact. That could have frankly made this glorified ghost train a heck of a lot better than it is.

With just three weeks to go to the first full days opening (on April 1st - no less!) Peter and I were given the task of designing an exhibition area about real UFOs, aliens and crashes that participants would enter as they exited from the ride itself. We had scope for ten display boards, onto which we could build a permanent set of visual and textual information areas which offered a rounded view about the reality behind UFOs, IFOs, the Roswell crash, the Bentwaters case, alien contact, even crop circles.

This was tough to do in the limited time available but as the result is (so far as we know) the only permanent UFO information display within the UK it was work we had to do. Given that 750,000 visitors went through one of Britain's top (and ever growing) tourist attractions last year - the only TV orientated theme park of its kind in Europe - the potential to raise serious UFO awareness via this display area was considerable.

On pre-launch day Peter and I joined the press (and 'Des and Raquel' from Coronation Street) on the first ride into what Granada call *UFO Zone*. We were pleased to see that our display came together. Indeed, in comparison the actual ride seemed a bit tepid and scareless, but then we are biased!

The ride lasts six minutes and you are taken through the remains of a crashed UFO (with the help of real ITN correspondants, TV monitors and news flashes) to witness the innards of the spaceship and face the final confrontation just before you emerge, supposedly shell shocked, into the display area. Here, our brief was to let you ask - *could this really happen?*

Granada Studio Tours complex is open every day (bar Monday - when they film scenes for 'Coronation Street' here). Aside from strolling down that famous street, or Baker Street with Sherlock Holmes, theres a backstage TV tour and a whole lot more... Now you can have your own close encounter too!

NEWS ROUND UP

:: French UFOlogist, Perry Petrakis, tells me that the EEC plans to operate a Euro-wide UFO investigation unit is still on hold. Now he is mounting a campaign to stop the handing over of this to SEPRA (new name for GEPAN) at the space centre in Toulouse. French researchers no longer trust this body and fear that all official UFO study in every EEC country (including the UK) would go deep underground if they got the job. So he is appealing to UK readers to contact their MPs and Euro MPs and urge them to prevent this option from gaining ground; although, I trust, he is not opposed in principle to an EEC sponsored Euro agency handling data if publicly accountable. Given the hysterical media reaction in the UK (but not elsewhere, where the idea seems more popular) I cannot see this scheme ever getting through.

:: Andy Collins has published more about the results of his Orgone 93 experiments in the crop fields of Wiltshire last summer. The photographic evidence of 30 strange anomalies filmed via infra-red during the search for so-called Orgone energy have now been reassessed by some of their experts and there are doubts as to whether most of these were truly unexplained. Air bells and insects are blamed; although some of the team are doubtful as to the efficacy of these solutions. However, other instrument readings taken do suggest some anomaly at the sites and they hope to mount a new operation this summer. Observers will not be allowed as delicate experiments will be set up - but those interested are encouraged to subscribe. This money will help to fund the costly experiments and all subscribers will receive the latest full report on the 1993 work (due April) and updates on results of the 1994 project. Address: PO Box 189 Leigh-on-Sea Essex SS9 1NF

:: Media Productions are putting together 'Tangible Evidence' an in house cable TV series about the paranormal. They are a charitable body offering work experience to TV students and require the loan of video and other documentation (without payment) for this work. Anyone able to help should contact:- William McMillan 1829 Paisley Rd West Cardonald Glasgow G52 3SS

:: Reader Ian Radburn offers some bargains from his own collection of books to anyone interested (first come, first served). There are about 40 - including US titles like 'Flying Saucer Occupants' or 'UFOs over the Americas' (£3) and my own 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' (£3) - the book I most often get asked for and which is long out of print and tough to find. Contact Ian at :- 54 Tilehurst Rd Cheam Surrey SM3 8PB

:: On the theme of books two new second hand catalogues are also available from readers. Jake Kirkwood has produced the Winter 1994 edition called UBIK. This is only a taster for the full stock in his Leeds shop. It covers strange phenomena, occult, conspiracies, UFOs, etc (eg 'The Dyfed Enigma' on the Welsh wave of 1977 for £8). An SAE will bring catalogues quarterly to you from:- 5A The Crescent Hyde Park Corner Leeds LS6 2NW

Melanie Warren has produced a 30 pp Spring catalogue called Phenomenal Books - strong on new age and parapsychology, but quite a few UFO titles too. There's the excellent (and rare) book by Aussie Dave Sargeant:- UFOs: A Scientific Enigma for £2. Send SAE or phone (until 9pm) or fax (0253-854617) to:- 14 Gresham Rd Thornton-Cleveleys Lancashire FY5 3EE

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Although this has been the first winter after all interest in the circles apparently vanished from the earth, cereology is not dead and buried. Two new books were even produced during the long, dark nights.

Paul Fuller and I launched an updated paperback version of 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' last autumn (Robert Hale, £6.95) and later in this issue you will see a review of 'Crop Circle Apocalypse' - the devastating about face by TV journalist John McNish, which is even more anti-circle than Jim Schnabel's 'Round in Circles' was last year.

Ironically, of these three the only one professing any real circles is the one written by Paul and I - whose title seems so dismissive and who, not so long ago, were considered hated debunkers by most people in the field. Now even the most vociferous cereologists give us a hearing... How times change!

Media stories were few and far between. But Busty Taylor popped up in the Andover Advertiser on 10 December to claim that analysis in the USA of samples from a 'secret Wiltshire location' have discovered unusually strong magnetism at the site.

Incredibly belated (on the same day as the above, in fact) the Times Literary Supplement - who rarely discuss books about the supernatural - had half a page written rather incredibly by one Eric Korn (!) on Schnabel's 'Round in Circles'. It was outspokenly biting - alleging that only the brainless took circles seriously - although how on earth he could describe Circular Evidence as 'the most thorough documentation presented in a tone not overtly batty' escapes me. Sure the pictures were nice - but what documentation? There were no facts or figures at all in there. The rest of Korn's piece was just an excuse to paint Jimbo as a hero and all those who believed in circles as nutters (save Terrence Meaden, who just gets labelled a 'decent man' who duped himself through his passion for science).

The bottom line, the TLS imply, is that crop circles are - as John Cleese might say - 'deceased, no longer with us, gone to circle heaven - they are an ex mystery.' Which is a shame, since they are far from that.

All the circle journals still appear - although I have not seen the (quoth TLS!) 'eminently fair minded' Cereologist in a while.

The December 1993 'Circular' (£10 for 4, The Circular: c/o St Aldhelm 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX) is as lively and well designed as ever. I think it has significantly improved since the CCCS took it on, which, I admit, is something I would not have predicted, but am happy to admit. The pictures, clear print, good layout and wide range (from Omar Fowler's fascinating scientific research linking circles with atmospheric ionization to more esoteric 'communication attempts' as they are billed) makes for variety and unflagging interest. But its big asset is a review (with sketch) of each circle formation in 1993 (over 120 of them, amazingly).

'Crop Watcher' has now decided to go quarterly (£9, for 6, from Paul Fuller: 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey Hants SO51 7TY). It sticks to its less visual format; although with its new computer design a vast improvement on its old layout. Its aim is much as before - hard hitting criticism, often through long commentary pieces on current issues by editor Paul Fuller. The December issue has its usual sprinkling of overseas circles news, a paper on how to experimentally create circles using microwaves and a complete report and review of Colin Andrews October 1993 lecture at a United Nations sub committee. His title 'Introduction to decoding ET-related alphabets' seems to demonstrate the view that Colin has about the origin of these marks... What's that I can hear Paul saying?... 'I told you so'?

UFO DAY OUT ON ILKLEY MOOR

By Nigel Mortimer of Connect

The idea had been forming for a number of years. Lead a conducted walk around some of the many UFOlogical sites on Ilkley Moor, West Yorkshire. It was eventually organised by my wife and I last autumn.

A few days beforehand I lectured in Ilkley and 120 had turned up, but as the weekend dawned the anticipated dozens of enthusiastic walkers turned into a handful of soaked and weather-worn companions. They stood huddled by the steps at the edge of the moor leading to White Wells. The rain poured down. Yet we decided to press on. You can never put down a good mystery.

When groups of people get together like this they share an experience. All five walkers had a tale to tell. Add to that the location and a story book setting emerges.

The half day trudge was planned to take in most of the places where UFO events have occurred, many in the remotest parts of the moors. We talked about time lapses at the Swastika Stone where we were transported back to the Bronze Age by a design found in only three other places on earth - and on some UFOsm - at least as George Adamski would have it.

Then we followed the major fault zone toward the Twelve Apostles Stone Circle, where 13 stones stand erect. One or two of those present here brought back memories of the 'hippie of the moors', whose UFO adventures in this area are legendary - Paul Bennett. He is now roaming the Scottish glens.

A biting wind howled around our party as we headed back towards the Backstone Circle, not far away from the domain of reputed elementals by the Cow and Calf Rocks. This part of the moor (the eastern side) hosts more UFO events than any other place I have yet visited, with new sightings coming in all the time. From BOLS to Barguests and earthlights to ghoulies - all seem to enter Ilkley Moor via this natural window.

At Backstone we tried a spot of dowsing to see who could do it. As always, those who (said they) could, could not, and the rest did!

In single file we trooped down off the moor into the welcoming car park; where I sat, soaked to the skin, eating my long-forgotten sandwiches. I wondered just what I was doing here. I must have been as mad as a... UFOlogist. For who else would go out in this weather to visit places where answers are never found and to describe events that most would never believe? Then someone said - 'when's the next walk?' So I replied; 'I'm not sure yet, but keep most sunny days free in your diary...'

Nigel suggests that anyone interested in a walk over this 'haunted area' (also the home of the famous 'Ilkley alien' photograph, of course) should send an SAE to Connect and he will give full details to them.

March also saw the launch by Nigel of UFO Reporter - a new magazine which is trying to fill the gap left in Yorkshire by the demise over the past year of UFO Debate and UFO Brigantia. Issue 1 is a 24 page A5 journal with a lot of variety. Its early days yet design wise, but there is a rich set of cases in here, especially if you are interested in earthlights or relevant mythology. Some of the Ilkley cases mentioned above (eg the Swastika Stone time lapse) feature, there's a new look by Nigel at the Ilkley entity case and an interview with US earthlight researcher Greg Long.

UFO Reporter costs £7 for 6 issues and cheques/POs should be payable to:-
Nigel Mortimer at 19 Derry Lane Menston Ilkley West Yorks LS29 6NQ

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



There are several newcomers to report this time. Aura Z is certainly the most remarkable. It is a veritable book - each issue 100 pages long on glossy paper with illustrations and published simultaneously in several editions (each one in a different major language!) It originates from Russia and is the first paranormal journal readily available to the rest of us. The first two issues contain a great diversity of material covering the topics that the old regime were famous for funding in secret. Now free of these shackles they can report what has been happening. I cannot even begin to summarise what is in here - an interesting set of photos of a UFO over the Urals in 1976, episodes from the official Soviet UFO investigation programme, UFO case files extracted from the KGB, a landing with traces in Kiev, a fighter pilot tells of his aerial close encounter - and these are just some of the UFO reports. There is cryptozoology, psychic research - even infra-red style Orgone energy photos just like those Andy Collins is digging into right now. This is one magazine you must get hold of. Four issues (in Europe) cost either 50 Swiss Francs or 33 US dollars (add 5 Francs or 3 dollars if outside Europe). You can pay by international money order in these currencies or by any major credit card. You can fax direct to Moscow on (095) 422-0960 or by post via 'Aura Z' c/o OVNI Presence BP 57 13 244 Marseille-La Plaine Cedex 1 France....Don't miss it!

Another European newcomer (but also in English) is NUFOC-FLASH! from the National UFO Center in Belgium. Edited by the very responsible Paul Vanbrabant (who was at the Sheffield conference two years ago reflecting on the Belgian wave) it aims to make clear that 'there is still activity in Flanders'. He is interested in exchange data so contact him at:- Tiensesteenweg 78/401 B-3800 Sint-Truiden Belgium

There are two new American magazines also. Thresholds is edited by Greg Conley and its strong point for me is 15 pages of paragraph long case summaries from magazines around the world - making this a kind of sightings digest. There is more to the magazine, however, with a Canadian column updating events and the last ever interview Allen Hynek gave in 1986. This is promising stuff. Issue 1 is 54 pp A5 and professionally type set. It costs \$35 US for 4 via 17320 Laverne Ave Cleveland OH 44135-1940.

Also out is American UFOlogist whose 20 pp A4 format is more akin to the IUR (without its photos). It aims to be scientific and features a critical analysis of the Scandinavian ghost rockets in 1946 and papers on SETI. You can try it for six months (I think that's three issues) for \$18.95 or \$23.95 outside North America) c/o PO Box 1916 Laramie WY 82070 USA.

Enigmas Mar 94 (£10, for 6: M. Robinson 41 The Braes Tulliboddy Scotland FK10)
Latest from Bonnybridge and an update on the famous Sauchie poltergeist

Pegasus Mar 94 (£8, for 4: 126 Grange Rd Guildford Surrey GU2 6QP)
More on Zacharia Sitchin...Adamski and Scoriton reviewed..The Hills & CIA!

Magonia Jan 94 (£4, for 4: 5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB)
Reprints the excellent recent Just Cause paper suggesting that the 1952 US wave was partly 'seeded' by government to boost civil defence recruitment.

J. Met Jan 94 (£26 for c10: 54 Frome Rd Bradford on Avon Wilts BA15 1LD)
Important new study of colour ball lightning photo from Austria in 1989.

Annals Mar 94 (£6, for 4: G. Lovell 8 St John St Wells Somerset BA5 1SW)
Among its many Fortean story snippets, as usual, is a review of assorted attempts to find cyclic patterns in waves of UFO activity. Do any work?

TLH 120 (£5.25, for 3: Empress PO Box 92 Penzance Cornwall TR18 2BX)
As always, essential reading - including an independent overview of Orgone 93. Odd to see two separate reviews (of Round in Circles and Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved) by Paul Devereux and Danny Sullivan. These reach what are almost mutually exclusive conclusions.

IUR Jan 94 (\$30 for 6: CUFOS 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
All the latest on the Roswell case from Randle and Schmitt plus a possible breakthrough in the search for the archaeologist who supposedly saw bodies.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12: 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)
*Jan: Reviews French abduction cases and looks for similarities with US data
 Feb: Recent mid air encounters over Paraguay are reported.*

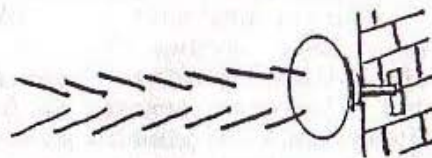
BAE Feb (\$25 CAN mon order: 2 St Clair Av West, Ste 607, Toronto ONT M4V 1L5)
As always 28 pages packed with relevant material on psychological and abduction issues, via direct debate involving leading researchers and abstracts from the scientific press. THE way to keep up to date on thinking into hypnotic regression, hallucinations, false memory syndrome, fantasy prone personality hypothesis and so forth. This is the cutting edge of UFOlogy.

SUN Mar (\$20, for 6: P Klass 404 N St SW Washington DC 20024 USA)
The fact that I say anything good about Philip Klass is causing me a few problems these days. I certainly don't think he's a genius or a saint, but I do think we have to take on board what skeptics say and this magazine is their UFO mouthpiece. This focuses on an attack of the decision to mount a congress search for data on the Roswell crash. Guess what, SUN don't like it!

Phenomena Dec (150 FF for 6: SOS OVNI 13611 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1 France)
In French, with brief English translation insert of key points. A look at odd UFO noises and a report on a new book about UFOs in France's main window area - Provence (eg Valensole, Draguignan, Trans-en-Provence, Dr X, etc, etc).

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



The row over the Livingston plaque rumbles on. Ron Halliday told The Scotsman (12 Feb) how, after he was named on the site marker celebrating the Bob Taylor landing case (when neither the witness nor any of the actual investigators got a mention on there!), Arthur C Clarke is back in the thick of it again. In his new 'A to Z of world mysteries' Halliday says it implies responsibility for getting the plaque erected. Since the idea for this marker was suggested by Scottish UFOlogists, like Ron and Malcolm Robinson, who mounted a campaign with the local council, this is a bit odd.

Meanwhile the Manchester Evening News weekly magazine (9 Feb) has a big spread on 'dedicated UFOlogist Mike Jones' from Rochdale. He talks about 'lay lines' (!!!), the famous Heywood close encounter (see recent NUNS where three MUFORA investigators chasing this sighting were labelled as MIBs) and how a man in Warrington had seen a figure 'dissolve through a chain mesh fence' (the Risley CE 4). This is concluded by: 'You can imagine what the police said. 'Well, I don't have to imagine - nor does anyone who reads the full report in 'Death by supernatural causes?' Here you will see that the police took this case very seriously and remain baffled today.

Mike then explains why he is not a full-time UFOlogist. Referring, of course, to no other local UFO researchers in particular he says that 'once money is your aim, truth goes out of the window. I want to bring the truth to the public, not stick it in a file while I compile a book.'

Now who on earth would ever do that?

AMAZING CLAIM TO SOLVE BELGIAN WAVE

A fascinating story in the Herts Advertiser (23 Feb) claims the resolution to a 16 year old mystery. If true (and that remains to be seen) it could also explain the UFO wave in Belgium between 1989 and 1991 !

The paper reports how a UFO was seen over Nomansland Common near Wheathamstead and photographed by two men in a car. But now a man has come forward and explained the UFO in an amazing way.

Although the paper does not say so, this case is actually in my first book ('UFOs: A British Viewpoint'; Robert Hale 1979; pp 88 - 90) discussing the investigation for UFOIN by Barry King. We expressed problems with the case because of the blurring of the object but not the background scenery. This implies a small object close to the camera, not a large one far away.

Now, aeronautical engineer Colin Rogers, of Gerrards Way, Wheathamstead, says the UFO was a 'six foot diameter saucer (model) built as a top secret project'. He further alleges that 'the machine was silent because it was electrically powered and was flying in circles around the common.' Moreover, it used technology since adopted by the Americans in their stealth aircraft and - here's the rub - he says that he 'went on to build a much larger version of the saucer in conjunction with a Belgian company and now is hoping to be able to construct a man-carrying version.'

Time will tell if this is more than a leg pull. Looking at the photos again I wonder if the blurring really fits a fast moving model. But if this claim does check out then its implications for UFOlogy could be immense.

BOOK UPDATE

Albert Budden is set to publish a new book. I'll review it next issue but it looks intriguing. Entitled 'Allergies and aliens - The Visitation Experience, it aims to demonstrate how alien contact and other phenomena (eg poltergeists) may be the result of allergic reactions to electronic or other (unrecognised) health hazards. Due mid May from Discovery Times Press at St Lukes House 270 Sandycombe Rd Kew Surrey TW9 3NP (Price £5)

PS:- UK readers wanting cut price (ex-warehouse, ie as new) copies of some of my books should note that I can offer them the following:- Scary Stories (£2), The UFO Conspiracy or Mind Monsters (£3 each) and hardbacks Sixth Sense or Phantoms of the Soap Operas (£5 each). Price includes postage Cheques to 'Jenny Randles' via 37 Heathbank Rd Stockport Cheshire SK3 0UP.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

Dark White by Jim Schnabel 304pp No photos/index Hamish Hamilton £16.99

This book needs no help from me with a full page in both the Sunday Times and Daily Mail and Schnabel himself getting a four page (!) promo article into the Independent. He may not have a clue how important an index is to a book but he sure knows how to arrange hype in all the right places.

The book is sub-titled a review of 'Aliens, abductions and the UFO obsession' - the last word saying much about its ethos. Jim, as a journalist, can tell a good story and writes superbly well. He presents an amiable trek through the theories and characters that make up the subject, painting clever (if one-sided) pictures of their work feeling his way in the dark towards a distant solution. Then he effectively gives in, pointing out that there are parallels with other altered states of consciousness, linking abductions with things like multiple personality disorder and spirit possession - hardly new as Hilary Evans has been saying it for years.

But Schnabel is honest enough to admit defeat with some of the evidence and notes that we cannot entirely rule out the theory that aliens have landed - although its obvious how uncomfortable he is with that view.

Most outsiders have loved the book - one of their own cutting a swathe through the nutty UFOlogists and showing that there's probably just a psychological explanation, even if UFO buffs dream of spaceships filling the skies. Insiders, with the advantage that they've actually read serious UFO literature (which I suspect none of this books mainstream reviewers ever have) worry more about its lack of references or direction. In the end it rather rambles about, picking up ideas and then laying these all aside.

That said it makes a very pleasant, at times perceptive, read. The views of various researchers are given (heavily filtered - some claim - through the author's own hand). It is a more sober book than 'Round in Circles', yet as with a Chinese meal - great as you read it but soon leaving you hungry.

Cropcircle Apocalypse by John MacNish 250 pp illustrated Circlevision

MacNish was the man who on BBC-1 TVs 'Daytime Live' did more than most during 1989 to hype the circles and plug Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado. He then left the BBC and set up his own video company, producing stunning visual images of what we now know were mostly Doug and Dave hoaxes. He sold large numbers of his resultant product; 'Cropcircle Communique'. Then, he began to have some doubts and in a lecture at UMIST in 1992 did a good job demolishing things like the infamous high pitched sounds that some cereologists were crazy over (as a grasshopper warbler bird). Indeed, I felt he gave a very balanced overview of the post Doug and Dave circle world.

Not for John daft conspiracy theories regarding MBF services and Doug and Dave - secret agents. I thought that rational crop circle research had an influential convert. How wrong I was. For now, in what I suspect is something of a move piqued by guilty conscience, MacNish has done the biggest about turn in circle history and is denouncing everything in sight.

This book is self produced and, whilst relatively attractive with good photos, it shows plenty of typesetting and design errors to prove that. It bills itself in terms one can only call egotistical... 'The answer is here...' the cover proclaims in big red letters - and the blurb says it is 'The ultimate book on crop circles.' But is it any of this?

Sadly not. Its effectively two things - a fairly breathless promotion of Doug, Dave and Jim Schnabel (ie it was down to hoaxers all along) plus what amounts to the true 'confessions of a crop circle sensationalist'. MacNish has the guts to admit the part he played in hyping the circles, and his mistake in promoting those who fanned the flames of mystery whilst ignoring people who had anything remotely sceptical to say. But he falsely assumes that scepticism stemmed from personality clashes or jealousy - when, certainly in Paul Fuller's case (unlike the way he is miserably treated in this book), it was out of a serious, scientific concern that the subject was being mishandled and the public, as a result, woefully misled.

The book is, in fact, a very enlightening account of gullibility and how the media handles the paranormal. It also adds much new data about the hoaxing of Doug and Dave and others which certainly further proves just how much human engineering has always been going on in crop fields. But its appendix - the 'authentic history of the circles phenomenon' is a joke. In fact it is a 'claimed history of Doug and Dave's hoaxing' and misses out many key events that do not fit in with this or back the hoaxing scenario.

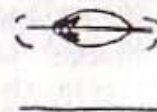
MacNish claims that there is no evidence for circles before Doug and Dave's first hoax in around 1978. This is frankly ludicrous and he ought to know that given his years of research. There is overwhelming evidence of this conclusion, whatever it actually means. Indeed Doug and Dave got their idea from the Tully circles (which they did not make) back in 1966.

I fear that his quest to be honest and own up to understandable over enthusiasm - which makes a brave and useful contribution to the literature - leads the author way too far. He is missing a truth which will one day become apparent. Then this book will seem quaintly amusing, rather than the personal journal of acute observation that for the most part it is.

* This book costs £12 (UK), £16 (Europe), \$23 (US) from 'Circlevision' c/o PO Box 36 Ludlow Shropshire SY8 3ZZ Tel/Fax: 0584 - 891083

BRIEF CASES

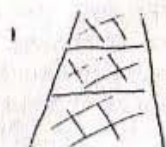
Some current investigations



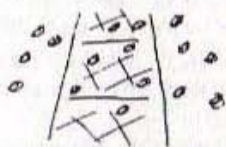
More Welsh wonders from Margaret Fry (1)

I am delighted to welcome a new series of investigations from Margaret Fry - in my view one of the most dedicated investigators we are lucky to have in this country. From her home in rural Wales she offers more fascinating cases in the next few issues to display the wonders of UFOlogy.

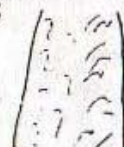
The mystery pylon: Case 8346 occurred in Summer 1983 at Glan Conway, Clwyd. Mrs S was at the country home of a friend overlooking the valley. Both are respected school teachers from Llandudno. Outside talking in the late evening gloom they saw a 'lit up thing like an electricity pylon' appear in a field. It had cross hatchings but no top. They discussed whether a pylon was present at the location, but knew of none. Then many small amber balls of light appeared within the structure and flew out in various directions. Then they all flew back into the mysterious pylon, which almost immediately began to fold in upon itself and vanish. The women were speechless. Next day they scoured the area but could find no clue in the field. There was certainly no structure there that resembled what they had seen the night before.



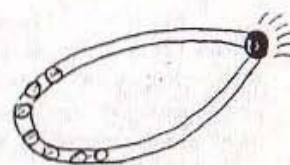
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Case 8346



Case 9233

A pear shaped rash: Case 9233 involves two women, a former colonial police woman and nurse, and a medical secretary. It was 16.45 on 2 November 1992 and after a day out shopping they were at Bodelwyddan, a small village near Abergelge with a famous marble church. It was just sunset. Suddenly they saw an object by the church spire, very low down. One of the women went into her bungalow to get binoculars and they watched as the thing flew over open fields and disappeared towards the Clwydian Mountains. There was no sound at all and the object was shaped like a pear, dark grey in colour, but with huge lights on it coloured green, blue, red and white. These made it look very pretty, which, the women explained, stopped them from feeling frightened. After it had vanished they felt very elated, but next morning both were covered in a rash on their neck and chest. Given both their medical backgrounds they saw a doctor at the hospital, who prescribed cortozone cream, but did not report the UFO sighting to him. The rash vanished after a few days, but has returned periodically on one of the women. Margaret Fry saw this rash immediately after the sighting and, again, in March 1994.

Case 6815 March 1968 Marple, Cheshire

Inv: Peter Hough / NARO

Mrs T, then a young mother, was out talking with a neighbour about their children. It was 14.00 on a bright sunny day. Suddenly, in the NE, Mrs T saw a golden object shaped like a flat based cone. It was rotating very fast in an anti-clockwise direction and had an orange glow around it (sun reflection?) She told her friend, who had her back to it and paid little heed, but did briefly look at it. Two people passing by on the opposite side of the street saw it and pointed up. After about 1 minute it moved away, still spinning. Mrs T says that a few days later the story broke about the famous PC Perks encounter (the policeman who saw a UFO whilst on patrol by the Rex Cinema in Wilmslow). If so, they have the date wrong as this occurred in March 1966. Superficially this sounds like it might have been a weather balloon.

Chester's Magic Roundabout

In the last issue we reported case 9401 where witnesses on the roundabout at Littleton, Chester, had spotted a strange object beside the big Sainsbury's supermarket. Their accounts were very consistent and both police and the MoD (to whom this matter was reported) were seemingly mystified.

The case has now become even more curious, since it transpires that this roundabout has been at the focus of other sightings in recent months.

On 18 August 1993 at 22.30 four people returning from Beeston Castle to Vicars Cross were there when they saw a bright star, which sank downwards. They drove towards the supermarket and saw that the big oval had flashing lights on its side, so they stopped the car and got out. They could make out a thin shape and watched as it moved slowly and silently into the distance. They contacted Jodrell Bank and I asked Mike Wootten of BUFORA, who lives nearby, to investigate.

Without knowing of this, Margaret Fry was contacted by Mrs G from Cumbria, a law student at Chester University. It was 19.00 on 14 October 1993 and she was stuck in a jam here when a white oval 'with some sort of arrangement on the side' appeared. It moved slowly and silently overhead and vanished towards Deeside and Wales.

Finally, Roy Sandbach was contacted by another witness to the 16 January 1994 affair. She and her mother, sister and grandfather at Plas Newton all saw the object hover for 10 minutes. It was a big oval with red, blue and white bars of light. It changed colour then flew away.

I have to say that my inclination is to think these sightings seem suspiciously akin to an airship - by which we have been plagued of late. But then if one was frequently visiting the area, eg to promote the supermarket, surely someone would have pointed that out by now. Yet the local media and police both still profess to be baffled months later. There is an aviation factory at Hawarden. Are they up to something interesting?

More curiously, in my new book just concluded I had discussed at length my own fairly mysterious UFO sighting in August 1977 which I have rarely mentioned since it was described in NUN all those years ago. This occurred at Vicars Cross - just a few hundred yards away in this same part of Chester - long before Sainsbury's arrived. Also the crop circles reportedly forming since the 1970's at Waverton (see 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved') were reputedly less than a mile south of this spot...

Case 9402 22 February 1994 Linwood, Lincolnshire Inv: Ric Millen

Apropos the Louth lights (see below) new reader Ric Millen reports a case from Mr S, a music teacher, who contacted him after seeing the local newspaper publicity over the wave.

He was travelling to give a lesson at 19.30 and was on the B1202 between the villages of Linwood and Lissington, near Market Rasen. In the sky ahead he saw a triangular formation of lights moving SE. Mr S pulled into the roadside and got out of his car to watch. They made no sound and filled an area of sky slightly larger than the full moon. There were two groups of four with two lights in between these, making a total of nine lights in all. They took about three minutes to move out of view.

This certainly seems to be the same phenomenon seen in the other Lincolnshire cases and has similarities with those in Belgium and in Staffordshire some years ago - which, you recall, turned out to be refuelling exercises. I have to say I favour that here - but the MoD seem unwilling to endorse that view. Presumably they could easily do so if it were true.

CASE HISTORIES

The lights of Louth Pt 2 Peter Gregory, Mike Morley, Mike Beadle, Rosie Oakes

A lot of this extraordinary case revolves around key witness Peter Gregory. He is the man who has video recorded UFOs, who launched a group and set up skywatches and around which most of the publicity has centred. So before we look at the specific cases that appear to form this wave of activity in this rural county we need to look at some of his background. It turns out to be quite fascinating in its own right and that may well be far from irrelevant.

Peter used to live in Grimsby (important when we come to the part about his vanishing video) and has been seeing odd things since he spotted a ghost at the age of six.

According to his local paper (25 August 1993), 'it is no secret that I am a psychic' and that, he feels, this makes him more 'in tune' with the UFOs. He knows when they are around. He reports; 'I fled Grimsby with my family and changed my name twice to avoid harassment. I was being hounded to solve ghost mysteries, predict events and find missing children.' He says his visions are 'quite frightening. I wish they would stop.' He suggests that 'if you have an unusual power' as he does, then 'you are as alien as UFOs.'

On 16 April 1993 at 2.30 am Peter had got out of bed to go to the toilet at his home in Mablethorpe. A sphere about the size of a football appeared through the window. He saw it move out towards the sea front and vanish. After getting back in bed he felt a burning sensation on his forehead. He also had a vivid after image of the ball etched onto his retina which he could still see after he had closed his eyes. This persisted for some minutes and confirmed its reality to him.

The next night he had a vision late at night in bed. He found himself 'in a control room of some sort in an enormous flying machine'. There was a blue haze filling the room and a humming noise. There were three normal looking beings watching a viewscreen and he felt a 'special bond between us but I do not quite know what it is.' The leader was about six feet tall and like the others, slender, with piercing blue eyes and shoulder length reddish/brown hair - a classic, so called 'Nordic' entity. He had a broad silver band around his forehead with two small lights at each end.

Peter felt a deep urge to communicate but was like an 'unseen phantom' in their world. He put his hand out and it passed right through the entities. Then the viewscreen flashed and a three-dimensional picture appeared with the motto - Year 3600 - on it. These images, of some kind of disaster, flashed through so quickly Peter could not take them in. He only realised they had something to do with ecology; although later he filled in more of a chronology of our future as life on earth was gradually extinguished. He then heard a voice say 'It must never happen again. The consequences are too horrendous to even contemplate.'

Peter was snatched into wakefulness after this powerful vision and 'knew that the tragedy that I had seen was very real and the memory of it would remain with me for the rest of my life.' He had further visionary 'contacts' with these entities afterwards and began to develop his opinions about what was going on. This, you might be surprised to hear, was not that these were aliens - but that, in fact, these visitors came from the future and were much more intimately related to ourselves than we realised. This is an unusual premise for a UFO witness to adopt.

On 31 May 1993 Peter managed to video film a silvery ball of light moving across the evening sky over Mablethorpe. This film, which some may have seen at last summer's Sheffield research conference, is hard to view as the daylight swamps the dim image - but a silvery light is certainly visible moving through the air as Peter reports.

However, it was not as spectacular as the UFO that appeared on 21 June outside his bedroom window at 2.45 am. This was a large glowing shape with red and yellow lights forming a flattened triangle. It was close and low down and really incredible. He managed to take 4 seconds of film before it shot away so fast that it left a trail behind. Sadly, disaster was to strike and, after taking one colour still from his film, this itself disappeared.

Before the report had received any publicity (within 2 days of it occurring he alleges) two men turned up and said they were from a Grimsby UFO group, wanted to loan his film for analysis and took it when he offered it to them. That was the last he ever saw of this evidence. Later checks revealed that neither the men nor their named group existed.

Peter Gregory now set about the task of replacing this precious film.

FINAL WORDS

:: Guy Lyon Playfair has won an out of court settlement from the BBC over the way they used his name and research in the infamous 'Ghostwatch' spoof at Halloween 1992. This may be a turning point and act as a signal to us all not to let the media trivialise the paranormal. Plans are well advanced for the series of 'Strange but true?' after its successful pilot last year (recently aired in Australia). More on that next time. We hope this will maintain the momentum of serious network programming on the subject.

:: John Holman of the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign is joining forces with America's Operation Right to Know to stage a friendly protest outside the MoD and House of Commons on 23 May. They aim to hand in personally addressed letters to all 650 MPs pleading with them to end the UFO cover-up. John Holman needs finance for these letters and support from protestors (either alone or in groups) who will join on the day. Anyone willing to help should contact 20 Newton Gardens Ripon N. Yorks HG4 1QF T: 0765-602898

:: Upcoming events are the one-day conference staged by local ASSAP people on Saturday 28 May (10.30 to 17.30) - theme 'the future of paranormal research', venue Blackpool Central Library. Cost £6. Details from Melanie Warren on 0253 - 854617 (14 Gresham Rd Thornton-Cleveleys Lancs FY5 3EE) Also on Saturday 18 June (14.00 - 17.00) Paul Fuller will lecture on historical crop circles and the UFO connection at Dr Johnson House Bull Street in the centre of Birmingham. Price £3. Details via the CCCS.

:: In his December 1993 column for FATE magazine John Keel reports that Dr James McDonald (who died over 20 years ago) coined the term 'The Oz Factor', which he then discusses. This mystifies me, as I have been using this term for years thinking I invented the name. Am I going cuckoo or is John Keel just wrong? If I am missing something could someone please tell me.

Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
SRUFO	(Scotland)	129 Langton Vw, East Calder, West Lothian	EH53 0RE
SEMR	(Scotland)	35 Fountain Rd, Bridge of Allan, Stirling	FK 9 4AU
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
FUFOIG	(Lancashire)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TV
NARO*	(North West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(West Yorks)	19 Derry Lane, Mensyon, Ilkley, W. Yorks	LS29 6NQ
PRA	(Derbyshire)	12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston	DE 7 4GR
GREEN DRAGON	(Staffs)	24 Nab Hill Drive, Leek, Staffordshire	ST13 3EE
PARA-SEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	P0 Box 308 Leicester	LE 3 9AH
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF
HURG	(Hereford)	6 Whitehouse Dr, Kingstone, Herefordshire	HR 2 9ER

* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester accessible c/o NARO T: 0942-604265